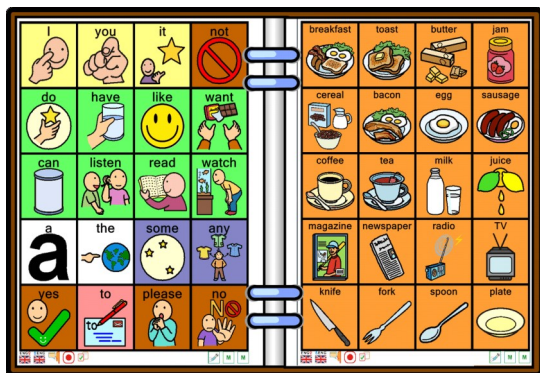


Speech and Language Therapy Creating Opportunities to use Communication Books and iPads



A communication book is a book or folder that helps people to communicate using symbols or pictures. They are used to help people who can understand more than they can say or to support their speech if it is not always clear. They also support children with their language development.



An iPad is typically the next step after a communication book once the child needs more vocabulary and if they continue to need support with their expressive communication skills. 'Proloquo to Go' is the programme used by Suffolk Communication Aids Resource Centre which is programmed onto the iPad. There are different levels to suit different children's communication needs.



Game and Activity Ideas

<p>STORIES: Make key pages for the stories you are reading. Your child can join in and communicate about</p>	<p>ROUTINES: Encourage your child to choose clothes, snacks, where to go, what to play with, etc.</p>	<p>ADULT GETS IT WRONG: Make mistakes that your child can correct using their book or iPad.</p>
<p>INSTRUCTION GIVING GAMES: Use the symbols to tell each other what to do with objects in front of you.</p>	<p>make guesses about</p>	<p>PLAY-BASED GAMES: Ask your child to choose what to buy in a shopping game, what clothes to put in the washing machine, what toy food to have on the</p>
<p>WEEKEND NEWS: Ask questions about what your child did, with who, and where.</p>	<p>JOBS: Run errands.</p>	<p>CATEGORIES: Can your child sort items into categories using their communication book pages or iPad.</p>

DON'T



Keep the book or iPad tidied away in a bag or tray.

Hurry your child along as they could get frustrated.

Ignore your child when they are trying to communicate with you.

Assume your child knows how to use their book or iPad by themselves.

They will need your support to teach them.

Wait if you have any difficulties or queries:

Contact your Speech and Language Therapist for advice.

DO



Encourage your child to participate in all activities such as playing games and reading stories using their book or iPad.

Model saying the words as your child points to the symbols so that they are still hearing and learning language.

Encourage vocalisation, speaking alongside and signing when using books or iPads if possible. Don't put too much pressure on this at first if they are not ready to do this yet.

Have the book and iPad out all of the time! Use the book or iPad yourself to show that communicating using the book or iPad is natural.

Use motivating topics and activities that your child is interested in.

Hold toys back so the child has to ask for what they want.

Add your own pictures e.g. photos of family members, topics at school. Talk to your Speech and Language Therapist about adding new words and symbols as and when you need them.